THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) Rail manufacturer in other countries are having both the processes *i.e.* Tank Degasser, RH Degasser for control of hydrogen in rail steel;

(b) The details of Rail Manufacturer in other countries having Tank Degasser or RH Degasser is not maintained in Ministry of Railways;

(c) R H Degasser for control of hydrogen is being used by Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai, the sole supplier of rails to Indian Railways;

(d) The relevant para of the specification for hydrogen removal from rail molten steel is as follows "Vacuum degassing of liquid steel shall be done to reduce the hydrogen content. For this purpose RH degasser shall be used. The vacuum level and the duration for which liquid steel shall be kept under this vacuum level shall be decided mutually by the purchaser and the manufacturer. All measurement of hydrogen shall be done for the liquid steel in tundish or mould. Any other method of sampling or determination of hydrogen will require prior approval of the purchaser." One firm and around twenty five Hon'ble MPs have represented in this regard. The issue of RH degassing *vis-a-vis* Vacuum Tank degassing has been discussed in detail within the Ministry as well as in the Specification meeting specially convened for this purpose on 24/02/2006. It has been decided that existing provision of the specification to be retained in view of consistent quality as observed.

Construction of walls on railway lands

†2683. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating on erecting walls on railway lands in all the States to check encroachment of the same;

(b) the total walls (in kilometres) erected so far including metropolitan cities;

(c) whether the work of erecting walls would be contracted out to local contractors and labourers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways have been constructing walls on their land all over the country to prevent trespass into all of their assets like lands, tracks, yards, railway stations, housing colonies, and other establishments etc. laying across the length and breadth of the country. It may not be possible to provide the specific data regarding all the walls constructed so far. However, approximately 1094 kilometres of boundary walls have been constructed in the recent past in all the States.

(c) The contracts for construction of walls are awarded by open bidding process largely.

(d) Does not arise.

Budgetary allocation for the projects of Tamil Nadu

2684. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total budgetary allocation for the new project and existing projects for the State of Tamil Nadu for the years 1999—2004, 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the total kilometre of double track laid in the above said periods, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) by when the proposal for double track between Chennai to Kanyakumari would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) This work is not sanctioned and as such, time frame is not feasible to be given.

Electrification of Railway lines

2685. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether electrification of rail lines in the country is way behind the schedule;